

The Baptist Record

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Baseball opens doors in China for Oxford minister

By Clay Renick

MEMPHIS (BP) — The chances to witness seemed natural for Johnny Flynt. He was in China in mid-September as a baseball coach.

"We prayed for the Lord to open up chances to share," said Flynt, from Oxford. "And the opportunities came with normal conversation."

For instance, in a cab one day, his interpreter, Miss Lee, asked him, "Tell me about your family."

"I've got two kids," Flynt replied. "I've been married 24 years. My mother died when she was 58 of cancer. She's with Jesus."

The interpreter didn't under-

stand that, so Flynt had a chance to explain the gospel.

"Never did I realize (that) the death of my mother would allow me to share with a non-Christian in a cab in Tianjin, China," he said later.

Flynt is a faculty member at the University of Mississippi (he is instructor in the Exercise Science and Leisure Management Department) and also serves as youth minister at North Oxford Church. He went to China with Frank Drinkard, minister of recreation at Germantown Church in Memphis.

The trip was part of a cultural

exchange between the Teacher's College of Tianjin (a city of 9 million near Beijing) and the University of Mississippi.

Drinkard also serves as coordinator of SportsNET, a sports evangelism ministry of the Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board.

Flynt formerly coached baseball at Ole Miss for 12 years. He spent only five days with the Chinese team, but he and Drinkard were able to gather donations for equipment. The gifts amounted to new gloves and shoes for each member

of the Tianjin team.

"Opportunities to play the game in China (are) limited," said Drinkard. "There's not the same type of infrastructure there as here."

Players at the college were 17-19 years old. Each of the players was studying to be a physical education teacher. Flynt and Drinkard worked on fundamentals: how to run, bat, and catch. Flynt also took detailed notes as they practiced and wrote an overview of the group.

"I would like for you to tell me some things about my players," the Chinese coach, Wong Chai Xie, said at the end of the week. Flynt gave him the written report.

"This is a very good plan," Wong responded. A translator explained each comment at a banquet they attended.

"Let me tell you about a better plan," said Flynt. "The plan for salvation."

He outlined the gospel for that man also. As the trip ended, 10 people had become Christians.

"The greatest hindrance we had on our trip was sheer time," said Drinkard. "People were excited that Christians were coming to help."

Flynt has since received several letters from players in China. The college president also wrote to invite the Ole Miss Rebels baseball team for a tournament.

On March 19-20, Coach Wong visited his American friends in Oxford, participated in a coaches' clinic at Ole Miss, and attended worship services at North Oxford. Flynt and North Oxford Church had been praying for Wong's conversion.

As Wong left to return to China, he told Flynt: "I believe God had a plan to send me to America. I know that God loves me. I will pray for you and your family.... I think I will be a [Christian] brother in less than one month."

"I was aware there were sports evangelism opportunities available through the National Fellowship of Baptist Men," Drinkard noted. "We can't ignore the opportunity God has given us."

More information about sports evangelism opportunities available through SportsNET may be obtained by calling (800) 766-7948 at the Brotherhood Commission or (800) 866-FMB1 at the Foreign Mission Board.

Renick is a free-lance writer in Martinez, Ga.



Johnny Flynt (back row, center, in white shirt) is youth minister at North Oxford Church. The former Ole Miss baseball coach was in Tianjin, China, last September to help teach Chinese physical education students the fundamentals of baseball. While there, he

had opportunities to witness to Coach Chai Xie Wong (back row, in sunglasses) as well as to student players. The effort was part of a cultural exchange between the University of Mississippi and the Teacher's College in Tianjin.

TEACHERS TO CHINA

The Teachers to China '95 project is an intensive language immersion program with a primary focus in conversational English. Be a part of this exciting missions opportunity to share Christ with the students of China. Dates for the project are July 2-August 13, 1995.

Call (901) 272-2461 or 1-800-280-1891 for more information today!

Teachers to China is a project of Cooperative Services International. The Brotherhood Commission, SBC, is responsible for the recruitment of volunteers.

Now that's commitment!

Music evangelist Jim McNeil's unusual ministry idea has reached new heights since he came to an understanding with God. McNeil committed the entire Bible book of James to memory eight years ago and recited it at his childhood church in St. Louis. The 12 professions of faith at the end of his monologue so impressed him that he decided to memorize the New Testament. "I said, 'Lord, that was pretty good so I think I'll do some more.' The Lord said to me, 'Son, you are not worthy to portray me.' He said if I will tell people that, he would start blessing the result when I did the Sermon on the Mount. So when I do it, I never say I'm portraying Jesus but that I would like to share some of the emotions that must have been felt when Jesus preached the great sermon," McNeil said. Although he continues his quest to memorize the New Testament from beginning to end, he now focuses on the Sermon on the Mount in his public performances. "I'm an evangelist, not an entertainer. I go for a purpose so I pray for God to revive his church and save the lost. And the message is already anointed, so if I have his anointing, I have it all," he said.

Islam on the march

The deadly Christmas Eve 1994 hijacking of a French jetliner and the exciting French commando raid that followed may have slipped from the headlines, but the impact has not been lost on Southern Baptist workers in the homeland of the terrorists who planned to blow up the widebody airplane over Paris. They view the episode as part of the bloody struggle by Islamic fundamentalists to take control of Algeria and rid that part of the world of Christian influence. The Armed Islamic Group in Algeria claimed responsibility last year for murdering four Roman Catholic priests and has promised to continue the "extermination of Christian crusaders." Muslim fundamentalists have attempted to take over the country by kidnapping opponents and declaring, "Those who oppose us with the pen will die by the sword." Scholars like Harvard University's Samuel Huntington aren't surprised; they believe the next great world struggle will occur between Islam and the West. Atrocities in places like North Africa, the Mideast, Bosnia, and most recently Chechnya, seem to bear out the prediction, he said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptist music evangelists R.L. and Beth Sigrest of Yazoo City are invited to sing at the Monday morning session of the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at First Church, Dallas.

20 years ago

Advance registrations for Mississippi Week at Ridgecrest Assembly's Church Training Leadership Conference indicate the highest attendance in 10 years for a one-week event at the Southern Baptist campground in North Carolina.

50 years ago

Meridian's 15th Avenue Church takes only two years and eight months to retire the \$20,000 debt incurred during their building project and pastorium purchase, with enough surplus to buy a new Steinway piano and begin an organ fund.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The real darkness of child abuse

No one desires to believe that humans are capable of horrors such as child abuse. Yet child abuse continues to destroy lives today. In 1993, 3 million cases of child abuse and neglect were reported in America.

Wayne and Dianne Tesch, in their book, *Unlocking the Secret World*, call child abuse an epidemic. Child abuse is said to be no secret to the abusers and the victims, but to society it is a secret kept.

Today there are medical professionals, social workers, school teachers, and church workers determined to reverse the tragic consequences of child abuse. With tears streaming down her face, a young woman told a chapel speaker: "Thank you for sharing about child abuse this morning. I was one of those young girls you talked about. But... these tears are not tears of sorrow. These are tears of joy that finally someone is talking about child abuse the way it is."

Another victim said, "My mother abused me and my brother.... My mom beat me with an electric cord when I was four." Another said, "My dad beat me so hard that he knocked my top teeth backward, broke my jaw, and gave me a black eye.... I was a freshman in high school."

There are 3 million stories like these. Children under five account for 43% of all reported child-abuse cases. Between 75-90% of reported physical abuse and neglect cases involve the caretakers of the abused children.

Jesus said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were

drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt. 18:6, NKJV).

The first hand children learn to trust is the one which rocks their cradles. What happens when that hand breaks, bruises, or maims?

Sexual abuse is strongly associated with the dark and silence. What happens to the ability to sleep peacefully when innocence and childhood are slain by the abuser?

The Mississippi Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse publishes a bi-monthly newspaper, *Mississippi Voices for Children and Youth*, which does a good job of information and awareness-building. They welcome reports of programs, research, and workshops on child abuse: (601) 969-7111.

Recently there were pro and con letters in the *Wall Street Journal* about an editorial titled, "A darkness in Massachusetts." Much of the article dealt with a child's testimony in court. The attorney general of Massachusetts said, "We have come so far in the past 20 years dealing with rape, domestic violence, and child abuse. Let's not let a... backlash drive us back into the darkness."

Glen Hester of New Jersey, speaking to the National Association of Christian Child and Family Agencies (NACCF), told his March 6 audience, "The most dangerous people are the powerless, and some of the most powerless people are the foster children."

Hester, author of *Child of Rage* and founder of the National Association of Former Foster Children, was in the foster care program in New York and Virginia for 17 years. He said he was often used as a "unit" to obtain budget dollars (a quarter of a mil-

lion of them, all told), and not as a human being who needed help. "I was labeled learning disabled, handicapped, retarded, and schizoid — just to keep the funds flowing," Hester said.

Thousands of other youths face the same fate, Hester said. He claimed that 90% of males in foster care end up in prison. NACCF representatives were urged to "rescue the powerless children" in their communities and give them "self-esteem, joy, and hope."

What can we do? What should the church do? Much is being done and said, and we should be grateful for social and religious workers, lawmen, and youth workers who have to deal with it every day. We need to be aware of helps offered — camps and conferences for abused children, hot lines where help is immediately available, and resource kits for those in need.

Neglect may be the most common form of child abuse. It moves in a vicious cycle which only takes a generation to break. Hope is on the horizon.

Guest Opinion...

How should churches, individuals deal with child abuse allegations?

By Elizabeth K. Holmes

Mississippi legislators, during the 1983 legislative session, passed the Mandated Reporter Law, which provides that any professional or other person who suspects child abuse or neglect shall immediately make an oral report to the Department of Human Services.

The law also mandates a statewide child abuse hotline for the purpose of receiving those reports. The Mississippi Child Abuse Hotline number is (800) 222-8000. The identity of those who report is confidential and is not divulged unless their testimony becomes necessary in judicial proceedings.

The statute provides for the protection of all citizens who make child abuse reports in good faith by establishing immunity from civil or criminal liability. The hotline can be used by anyone who knows of or suspects child abuse, including the victim.

If the report is substantiated, the child(ren) is removed from the home by court order and placed in an emergency shelter or a foster home. This entire process is set up to protect children, but with the ultimate goal of stabilizing and

reuniting families if at all possible.

Many agencies share the responsibility of providing education, counseling opportunities, victim support groups, and parent support groups.

The Mississippi Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse operates the Children's Advocacy Center, which provides a non-threatening atmosphere in which an abused child can be interviewed by one social worker on one occasion. The establishment of this center has greatly reduced the traumatic effects of the legal process on abused children. The Mississippi Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse can be contacted at (601) 969-1995 and the Children's Advocacy Center can be reached in Jackson at (601) 969-7111.

Churches have begun to face the reality of child abuse among church families and even within the church itself.

This realization has led the agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to provide information and training to church staff and lay people. This has enabled churches to establish policies to protect

children in the care of the church. Training for adult workers also includes identifying symptoms of abuse, characteristics of the abuser, and the importance and legal responsibility of reporting abuse.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) has the specific assignment of addressing child abuse as a family issue and of providing assistance to churches.

Printed materials available from the Christian Action Commission include:

- "Sanctity of Human Life: Child Abuse" (33 cents each),
- "The Bible Speaks on Sex" (17 cents each),
- "Christian Lifestyle for Youth: Sexuality" (35 cents each),
- "Critical Issues: Rape" (33 cents each).

The CAC staff also leads child abuse conferences in individual churches or associations. For more information, contact the CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Holmes is CAC consultant for women's and children's issues.

THE FRAGMENTS

Way to go, MC

Mississippi College's athletic program will drop from National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II standing to Division III by 1997.

It was a tough decision to do so. It was also a wise decision. MC paid out \$940,000 for athletic scholarships last year alone. In Division III, grants-in-aid are not awarded. Only need-based financial aid will be given; those monies will be handled through the college committee which handles aid for all students.

There is always the tendency in colleges awarding high scholarships for the athletic dog to wag

the academic tail. NCAA investigations abound nationwide. MC President Howell Todd and the college trustees have made a powerful statement about remaining true to the mission of the school.

Also, you have to love the statement of football coach Terry McMillan: "I don't like it, but I work for MC. If they told me to hook up a mule and plow the field, I'd do it. I'll play Division I, II, or III, whatever they tell me to."

One thing is for sure — with an attitude like that, the 24-year employee will never be a loser. (See related article on page 4.)

— GH

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Controversy continues over Mohler's dismissal of Garland

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Controversy surrounding the school of social work at Southern Seminary continues in the wake of President R. Albert Mohler Jr.'s removal of Diana R. Garland as dean.

Mohler and several seminary trustees met with faculty for more than two and a half hours March 23. Comment about the meeting, however, is minimal. A seminary spokesman said Mohler will not comment on faculty or other internal meetings at the seminary. James Chancellor, chairman of the Faculty Committee and associate professor of missions and world religions, also declined to comment to Baptist Press, except to say he had consulted with Vice President for Academic Administration David Dockery and the situation is "very complicated."

The Organization for Student Social Workers at the seminary's Carver School of Church Social

Work issued a seven-point "request" of Mohler March 22 including a call for Garland's reinstatement as dean; further dialogue with Mohler; a specific statement of Mohler's plans for social work studies at the seminary; Mohler's stance on homosexuality, abortion, and women in ministry "and the role of ministers in relating to these issues;" written comment from Mohler on whether the National Association of Social Workers code of ethics is "congruent with biblical and theological values and ethics;" and public disclosure of "all processes for choosing faculty" at the seminary. The students asked for a written response by April 3.

The students also conducted a sit-in in front of Mohler's office the week after Garland's removal as dean, with about six to 12 students present at any one time during the day.

David Sherwood, the nominee

Mohler turned down for an opening on the social work faculty — the action that precipitated a challenge by Garland alleging restrictive hiring procedures at the seminary — released answers he provided to Mohler on the seminary's doctrinal Abstract of Principles and various social issues.

"Some roles within the church... are limited to men, just as other roles are... fitted for women. It is simply not acceptable to... obscure the New Testament pattern."

— Al Mohler

lege by Garland alleging restrictive hiring procedures at the seminary — released answers he provided to Mohler on the seminary's doctrinal Abstract of Principles and various social issues.

Mohler had cited Sherwood's view on women as pastors as the reason he turned down the nomi-

nee, who is director of the social work program at Gordon College, Wenham, Mass., and editor of the journal, *Social Work and Christianity*.

In his answers to Mohler, Sherwood wrote of women in ministry, "In my understanding of Scripture, God's Spirit blows where it wills and certain (but not all) women may be called to any role in the ministry of the church, just as certain (but not all) men may be. Evangelical scholars committed to the full authority of Scripture differ over this issue. I am sensitive to those differences and I can respect and work with those whose understanding is different from my own, recognizing that I might be wrong. I would expect the same respect and recognition from them. In all these things we must seek to 'preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...' he wrote, quoting Ephesians 4 in the New Testament.

Mohler, on March 21, issued a statement to Baptist Press concerning his view on women in ministry: "Based upon the New Testament, I believe there is a clear pattern of male leadership in the congregation, especially reflected in the office of senior pastor. The New Testament clearly reveals a complementary pattern of relationships between men and women. Spiritual gifts are not gender-specific, but some roles within the church were and are limited to men, just as other roles are more properly fitted for women. It is simply not acceptable to allow a secular egalitarianism to obscure the New Testament pattern. We must maintain trust with the churches we serve, and Southern Baptists have spoken loudly concerning their convictions on this issue. We are a Southern Baptist institution, and we will not apologize for maintaining loyalty to the denomination we serve."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Mississippi church chosen for ABC Easter broadcast

By William H. Perkins Jr.

From Miami to Maine, Mississippi Baptists are poised to take their Easter message to places both familiar and unfamiliar with the evangelistic fervor of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

The ABC television network — that's right, home of "NYPD Blue" and "Roseanne" — has announced that it will broadcast the Easter Sunday worship service of First Church, Jackson, as part of its expanded coverage of religion in America.

Television stations as far-flung as Hamilton, British Columbia (Canada), and Juneau, Alaska, are carrying the service. Some of the country's most powerful large-market stations plan to broadcast the service, including WLS-TV in Chicago, KUSA-TV in Denver, and KABC-TV in Los Angeles.

The broadcast will also be seen in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Seattle, San Francisco, and at least 108 other locations, according to information supplied by the network to the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC).

Jack Johnson, RTVC president, said ABC approached

RTVC through the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, with which the Southern Baptist agency is affiliated.

Hour," which is produced and distributed internationally by RTVC.

"Pollard has preached more 'Baptist Hour' sermons than any other speaker. With a worldwide audience, a potential Russian TV audience of 80 million, and ACTS and FamilyNet, Pollard's 'Baptist Hour' ministry is certainly the most extensive in the program's history," reported a recent article in RTVC's *Beam* magazine.

Pollard said he is pleased that a secular U.S. television network has awakened to the importance of religion in everyday American life.

"Things do go unreported," he said.

Pollard pointed out that the opportunity for First Church to appear on a national television network is not a result of his standing or the church's stature in religious circles.

"ABC is airing the service without cost to us. It is a gift from God. We make a mistake if we think we're in charge of this thing."

"It's really not any more important than my Easter messages at Flint Creek Mission," Pollard said, referring to his first pastorate in Texas while he was a Southwestern Seminary student.

Easter Sunday broadcasts

City	Station	Time
Greenwood	WABG-TV	6 a.m.
Jackson	WAPT-TV	6 a.m.
Meridian	WTOK-TV	6 a.m.
West Point	WLOV-TV	12 noon
Biloxi	WLOX-TV	no broadcast
Baton Rouge, La.	WBRZ-TV	6 a.m.
New Orleans, La.	WVUE	undecided
Memphis, Tenn.	WHBQ	no broadcast
Pensacola, Fla.	WEAR-TV	6 a.m.

The network requested that RTVC supply a videotape of a live Easter service, and First Church, Jackson was selected for several reasons, Johnson explained.

"The church is a credit to Southern Baptists, their commitment to quality broadcasting is reflected in excellent television facilities, and Frank Pollard is pastor," he said.

Pollard is well known in religious broadcasting. The former Golden Gate Seminary president is featured on the radio and television versions of "The Baptist



Church Music marks 50th

Participants in the celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department (CMD) had a rare opportunity to join the Mississippi Singing Churchmen in a mass choir (top photo). Held March 25 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, the celebration featured concerts by pianist Joe Martin of Austin, Texas, and handbell soloist Christine Anderson of Houston, Texas; presentations by the mass choir, orchestra, One Voice drama/singing group, and the Singing Churchmen; congregational praise medleys; remembrances of past CMD directors by their families and friends; and a challenge for the future by William J. Reynolds (above, right photo), professor at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. Former CMD consultant Danny Jones (above, left photo, left) presented a plaque to current CMD director L. Graham Smith. Jones represented the Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, where he is now employed; the plaque recognizes Mississippi's 50-year contribution to organized church music. The afternoon celebration closed with a presentation of an anthem commissioned for the occasion: "Sharing the Song of Jesus," composed by Mississippian Billy Causey and Lew King, lyrics by J. Paul Williams. (BP photos by Shannon T. Simpson)

NOBTS trustees approve search process, honor Leavell

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The nominee hasn't been selected but trustees of New Orleans Seminary have decided they will meet in a special two-day meeting to consider the search committee's selection for the seminary's eighth president.

Trustees adopted the selection procedure offered by the 11-person search committee during the board's regular spring meeting, March 13-16, at the New Orleans campus.

Morris L. Anderson, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., pastor and chairman of the search committee, said the committee would no longer "solicit" recommendations for a successor to Landrum P. Leavell II after March 15. Leavell retired Dec. 31, 1994, but agreed to stay as interim until a new president is elected.

"We have 22 candidates," Anderson, also vice chairman of

the trustee board, said. Although not "soliciting" more recommendations, Anderson said that did not prohibit the committee from considering recommendations which they might receive after March 15.

Anderson told Baptist Press he hopes the committee would have a candidate before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, June 20-22.

The search committee agreed to give the full board at least two weeks' notice of the special meeting.

The committee already has met a number of times, Edward D. Johnson, board chairman, said, including twice during the trustees' meeting. They also plan to meet later this month, said Johnson, an Ocala, Fla., pastor.

Although not adopted by the trustees, the search committee did

present its 10-point criteria "for the potential candidate":

1) "A man of godly, impeccable integrity — first and foremost.

2) "Terminal (doctorate) degree: very desirable but not a determining factor.

3) "Statesman: speaks and presents himself well; perception of the president will be the perception of the school.

4) "Strong conservative.

5) "Tenure potential (to serve): about 10 years.

6) "Have administrative skills.

7) "Have pastoral experience.

8) "Visionary and innovative.

9) "Fundraiser able to sell the cause of theological education.

10) "Wife's support."

Gary Enfinger, a trustee from Thomasville, Ala., asked if any of the 10 criteria were "negotiable."

When a trustee suggested the

"terminal" degree was very important, if not a requirement, Johnson replied he thought so, too, until he was told Robert Naylor, former president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, did not have a "terminal" degree.

In other action by trustees, student fees will increase but so will faculty and staff salaries for next year.

The new budget is a 10.7% increase over this year's budget, according to L. Clay Corvin, vice president for business affairs. He told trustees the increase will come from an additional \$248,247 in SBC Cooperative Program funds, \$480,000 in student fee increases, and \$160,659 in other revenues.

Faculty and staff salaries will increase 3.5%. Corvin said the new budget allocates 81% of the overall increase to salaries. The average

graduate faculty compensation will now increase from \$47,509 to \$52,381.

The seminary's Center for Evangelism and Church Growth was renamed the Landrum P. Leavell II Center for Evangelism and Church Growth, and the Landrum P. Leavell II Chair of New Testament was activated.

Also, Leavell was appointed "professor emeritus" at the seminary. He was honored in special ceremonies at a trustee dinner.

Four new faculty members were employed: Don Aderhold, professor of New Testament at the Atlanta campus; Randall C. Millwood, assistant professor of church planting and Sunday School growth; James Lynn Shaddix, assistant professor of preaching; and Kenneth James Gabrielse, assistant professor of church music.

Hemphill says abortion flap no factor in prof's departure

FORT WORTH (ABP) — An ethics professor at Southwestern Seminary, whose position on abortion prompted a complaint from one trustee last fall, won't be back to teach next year. But seminary President Ken Hemphill said the decision not to renew the teaching contract for Bob E. Adams was strictly financial.

Adams, 65, has taught Christian ethics at the Fort Worth seminary off and on for 12 years since 1976. He is one of three professors serving under special presidential appointment, a role that does not require approval of trustees.

Last fall conservative trustee Laura Lee Cogswell of Sherman, Texas, sent a fax to Hemphill complaining that Adams signed an abortion-rights statement in 1977. Hemphill said the fax played no role in his decision

late last year not to continue Adams' teaching contract.

But Adams' departure has disturbed some members of Southwestern's faculty, who are worried about trustee interference in faculty matters.

Bruce Corley, dean of the theology school, and Adams met with Hemphill for two hours Feb. 23, along with William Tillman, chair of the Ethics Department. According to several of those present, Hemphill apologized for bypassing normal procedures in canceling Adams' contract, but denied Cogswell's fax had anything to do with the decision.

"I had forgotten I had received that and threw it away," Hemphill told ABP. "I did not realize it might find its way out of my trash can."

The fax fell into Adams' pos-

session, although it is unclear how. In it Cogswell reportedly complained that Adams had been chosen to speak in seminary chapel last fall despite signing a 1977 abortion statement sponsored by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

The decision not to rehire Adams was part of a seminary-wide effort to cut expenses, Hemphill explained. Appointed professors are paid about as much as elected faculty, he said.

But those teaching duties can be filled more economically by adjunct professors, which makes the appointed positions a logical place to cut, he said.

Adams, who taught at Southwestern from 1976-84 as an elected faculty member, returned to Southwestern in 1993 after a stint as a foreign missionary. Although he was promised an elected position, Adams said, then-president Dilday opted for a presidential appointment because

of fear that trustees, who were locked in a struggle with Dilday over control of the school, would block Adams' election. "That had to do with Dilday and not Adams," confirmed Dean Corley.

Adams' departure leaves Southwestern Seminary's ethics faculty shorthanded, said Tillman, the department chair. The department is down to one full-time and one part-time professor from four professors two years ago.

SWBTS dean Corley resigns, joins Baylor's Truett Seminary staff

FORT WORTH (BP) — Bruce Corley, dean of Southwestern Seminary's school of theology, announced March 21 his resignation from the nation's largest theological seminary to join the faculty of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary as professor of Christian scriptures, beginning in June.

"I'm going in view of a call to Baylor. If it were reactionary, I would have made the move much earlier," Corley stated. "The firing of Russell Dilday and the election of Robert Sloan (president-elect of Baylor University) have been factors in my decision."

Seminary President Ken Hemphill said he is saddened that Corley will be leaving Southwestern. "He has been an integral and beloved member of the Southwestern family for 19 years. All of us will miss him and his wife, Linda."

Emotions were mixed among faculty and students in the wake of Corley's resignation.

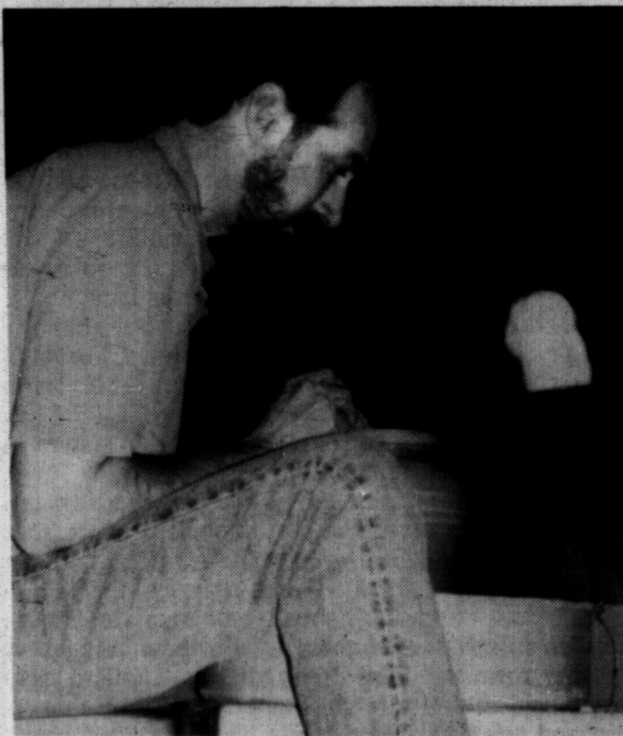
For Bert Dominy, professor of theology, Corley "was the glue that held this faculty together. We trusted him implicitly. He will be missed, but I'm very pleased for him personally."

When asked if he expected other faculty to follow Corley's departure, Dominy said he didn't look for a "mass exodus. A trickle probably."

William Tolar, vice president for academic affairs, said he knew Baylor had been after Corley for many years. "Robert Sloan went from the Southwestern faculty to Baylor in 1983. I urged Dr. Corley to stay, but when Dr. Sloan was made president of Baylor, I knew it would put him in the position to come after Dr. Corley again."

Acteens meet at MC

Mississippi College hosted Acteens from across the state March 24-25 at the 1995 Mississippi Acteens Convention. Among the 600 girls who attended (in photo at right) were Whitney McBeth (left), 13, and Kristy Cameron (right), 14, of First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg. David Howard, potter from Franklin, Tenn., (bottom left photo) demonstrated his skills while Acteens gave testimonies, drawing spiritual analogies from the potter and clay. Howard is a former student minister whose wife Gina edits *Student* magazine for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Howard made and donated 600 earthenware bowls for each girl to take home as a reminder of what she had learned at the convention. At the close of Saturday's general session, singer and worship leader Alicia Williamson led the girls in prayer (bottom right photo) for themselves and their relationships to Christ during a "decision time." (BR photos by Shannon T. Simpson)



MC President Todd, trustees drop athletics to Division III

By Shannon T. Simpson

Mississippi College's intercollegiate athletic program will drop from the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division II to Division III by 1997, President Howell Todd announced March 23 in a press conference on campus.

Todd cited concerns regarding budgetary commitments and the overall mission of the school among the reasons for the decision, made jointly with trustees.

"... It is very important that we take some steps to bring the university into harmony and balance with our mission," Todd said.

Of the school's overall operating budget of \$27 million, \$2 million goes to the athletic program. Out of that \$2 million, \$940,000 is awarded in athletic scholarships.

"I believe this to be disproportionate to what we can afford when there are so many needs at the campus," Todd said. "... We cannot continue in this posture and make

the necessary improvements to our academic programs."

Membership in NCAA's Division III requires a school to give only financial aid based on need, not aid given solely on the basis of athletic ability.

"I believe that an NCAA Division III program more clearly reflects the historical mission of Mississippi College in renewing a primary emphasis on outstanding academically talented students who can also play competitive athletics..." said Todd.

"... Athletic programs cost money. Moving to Division III will not erase the need for funding the program out of the operating budget," he continued. "... It is a matter of degree of support rather than whether to support."

Todd also said the school will file a notice of intent to change divisions by the June 1 deadline. NCAA regulations require MC to continue to play sports under Division II rules for two full years before becoming full members of Division III.

MC intends to honor its financial commitments to student athletes in the meantime. They will receive their financial aid for the next two years. However, athletic director and football coach Terry McMillan said there will not be any new scholarships available, including this year's football signees.

"We'll have to tell them to go straight to the financial aid office now," McMillan said.

McMillan said he was disappointed by the action of Todd and the trustees. The Choctaws football team would be off NCAA probation for the first time in two years this fall and eligible to win the Gulf South championship and Division II playoffs.

President Todd reiterated, however: "We can still have good athletic programs and reflect our mission for academic success."

Thursday, March 30, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



WMU meets in Tupelo

More than 700 members of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) attended the organization's annual meeting March 20-21 at Harrisburg Church in Tupelo, where national WMU Executive Director Delanna O'Brien (above) of Birmingham addressed the overflow crowd. Alvin and Mary Doyle (below), Mississippians serving as Southern Baptist missionaries in northern Nigeria, told of their mission field experiences and thanked the Mississippi women for their support of missions. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Sullivan to write series of books on Baptist life

James L. Sullivan, native Mississippian and distinguished athlete and graduate of Mississippi College, is writing three books about the church and his life.

Sullivan, a member of First Church, Nashville, said "the books will open a lot of eyes and explain a lot of things to a lot of people."

"The rift in the 15.6-million member denomination isn't caused by a difference in theology," Sullivan said. "The basic cause is philosophical, personal, and financial, and these elements in our Baptist church clashed and produced something similar to a Shakespearean tragedy that is a mystery to most Baptists."

Sullivan said he is writing the books to help remedy that tragedy. If anybody knows the inner workings of the Southern Baptist Convention, it is Sullivan.

He preached his first sermon in a Baptist church in 1926 at the age of 16 and went on to pastor both small and large churches and hold top executive positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sullivan left the pastorate at First Church, Abilene, Texas, to become president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) from 1953-75. The BSSB is the largest publisher of religious materials in the world.

At the 1976 SBC annual meeting in Norfolk, Va., Sullivan was elected SBC president on the first ballot with more than 50% of the votes, something that had never happened in the history of the denomination.

Last month, Tylertown, where he grew up, celebrated James L. Sullivan Day. The event was centered at Tylertown Church, where he was baptized in 1921, preached his first sermon in 1926, was licensed to preach in 1928, and ordained to the gospel ministry in 1932.

Now 85, Sullivan is one of the most revered and loved elder statesmen among Southern Baptists.

— Excerpted from an article in the March 10, 1995, NASHVILLE BANNER.

Judge continues restraint order on Nobles property transactions

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The wife of former Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles cannot sell land deeded to her by her husband shortly after he was accused of taking millions of dollars in donations intended for the Clinton school, Hinds County Chancery Judge Patricia Wise ruled on March 27.

Wise extended the temporary restraining order she issued earlier that freezes transactions on property transferred by Nobles to his wife, Joy on Oct. 11, 1993 — just months after college trustees forced him to resign over the missing money.

Wise also ruled, however, that Joy Nobles can take action on any property she owned prior to her husband's resignation on August 3, 1993. It is not clear

how much property she may have owned in her own name before that date.

Joy Nobles was also victorious in her fight to kill a subpoena that would have compelled her to testify at the March 27 hearing, citing her medical condition as the reason she could not attend.

A federal grand jury in Jackson returned a 20-count indictment against Lewis Nobles on Sept. 21, 1994, and the college filed civil lawsuits in an attempt to recover the donations allegedly taken by Lewis Nobles.

He is currently undergoing medical evaluation at a federal prison hospital in Missouri after apparently swallowing poison in San Francisco as FBI agents arrested him Jan. 26 on a federal

fugitive warrant. The warrant was issued by U.S. District Judge William Barbour in Jackson when he failed to appear at a pre-trial hearing earlier that day.

"The college thinks Mrs. Nobles is a nice lady and that she is innocent of what Dr. Nobles did," college attorney Alan Perry told Wise, adding that the school wants to protect its right to recover losses caused by Lewis Nobles' actions.

Oxford attorney Grady Tollison, representing Joy Nobles, shot back that the college, in its lawsuit filing against Joy Nobles, had accused her of fraud and conspiracy.

He also said the college's lawsuit accused him of fraud when Lewis and Joy Nobles gave his law firm a land deed of trust to represent them, and he planned his own "remedy" in the future.

Amy Whitten of Oxford, Tollison's law partner and an attorney for Joy Nobles, said, "It's an unfortunate situation for Mississippi College to continue to state that Mrs. Nobles has done nothing wrong and to press for restraining her legal rights on her property."

In addition to Perry, the college was represented at the hearing by James Leon Young of Jackson. Tollison and Whitten represented Joy Nobles.

Mississippi College trustee chairman Harry Vickery attended the hearing, along with college administrator Rory Lee.

Clinton physician Ben Nash, son-in-law of the Nobleses, also attended the hearing and testified as an expert witness on Joy Noble's medical condition.

SWBTS chapel speakers address minister burnout

FORT WORTH (BP) — "Nearly 2,000 Southern Baptist pastors and staff drop out of the ministry every year," said Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, told students at Southwestern Seminary.

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., told a chapel audience, "Everything from sin in their lives to difficulties and confrontations in the church cost them their ministries. The reality is that in your ministry, more than likely, there will be days in which it will be very important for you to grip this word called 'endurance.'"

"Disappointments will come," Henry said. "Sometimes your col-

leagues are suddenly saying things about you that you've never heard. And you're saying, 'Why did they say that?' You'll ask yourself, 'Is it worth it all?' and 'Do I have to go through this?'"

Henry's counsel to help ministers endure the "strategic race of life": maintain a devotional life, exercise regularly, meditate on God, listen to God, be accountable to someone in ministry life and personal life, take vacations, and don't preach through them, keep learning, stay fresh, be willing to change, learn how to deal with people, learn how to say "no," discipline time, and learn to accept criticism.

Southern Baptists contribute to American life, religion

By R.G. Puckett

EDITORS' NOTE: This is the 10th article in "The Spirit of Southern Baptist, 1845-1995" series. The Historical Commission, SBC, will release one article each month from June 1994 to May 1995.

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist mission to the world rolls on the twin tracks of education and information. No knowledgeable person questions the zeal of Southern Baptists for missions, which includes evangelism and benevolences, but all of these things are dependent upon Baptists being educated and informed to effectively translate their passion and commitment to missions into action.

Luther Rice is correctly called the "father of world missions" among Baptists in America. Stirred to action by prayer, by 1812 Adoniram and Ann Judson, along with Rice, were bound for the Orient to implement their calling and commitment.

Through reading the Bible while on the ship en route to the mission station, the Judsons and Rice accepted the Baptist position on believer's baptism by immersion. Judson announced his plans to be scripturally baptized and Rice soon came to the same conclusion. In September 1812, Rice preached his famous sermon on believer's baptism and Carey called it "the best I have ever heard on the subject."

These decisions cost the missionaries their sponsorship by the

congregationalists, and Rice returned to America to solicit prayer and financial support among the Baptists for the Judsons. By 1814, Rice and others formed "The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in The United States of America for Foreign Missions," calling it the Triennial Convention for short.

Within 10 years, Rice provided the model for undergirding Baptist missions: an organization, a publication, and an educational institution.

Between the formation of the Triennial Convention in 1814 and the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, many states used the "Rice model" to get Baptists mobilized for more effective world missions.

Jesse Mercer, a native of North Carolina, used the system effectively in Georgia; Richard Furman in South Carolina; Robert B. Semple in Virginia; and Thomas Meredith and Samuel Wait in North Carolina.

By the time the SBC was formed in 1845, there were nine state conventions: South Carolina, formed in 1821; Georgia, 1822; Alabama and Virginia, 1823; North Carolina, 1830; Missouri, 1834; Maryland and Mississippi, 1836; and Kentucky, 1837. The significance of these

state conventions is not only that they encouraged and promoted missions — in the state, in the nation, and throughout the world — but they also fostered min-

istry in education, publication and benevolences.

Paralleling the formation of the state conventions was the birth of state Baptist papers: *The Christian Index* in Georgia, formerly the *Columbian Star* founded by Luther Rice, 1822; the *Western Recorder* of Kentucky, 1826; the *Religious Herald* of Virginia, 1828; the *Biblical Recorder* of North Carolina, 1833; and the *Alabama Baptist and Reflector*, 1835. Other state conventions and their official journals would follow the formation of the SBC in 1845.

Equally significant was the establishment of educational institutions: Furman University in South Carolina, 1826; Georgetown College in Kentucky, 1829; Mississippi College, 1830; Mercer University in Georgia, 1833; Wake Forest University in North Carolina, 1834; Samford University (formerly Howard College) in Alabama, 1836; University of Richmond (preceded by the Rich-

mond seminary in 1832) in Virginia, 1840; William Jewell College in Missouri, 1843; and Baylor University in Texas, 1845.

Today, there are 69 colleges/universities, four Bible schools, and eight academies operated within the state conventions. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was established in Greenville, S.C. The SBC now operates six theological seminaries, two of which (New Orleans and Southeastern) have established college-level studies.

There are three key words in the Baptist contributions to American life and religion: missions, education, and benevolences. While it is assumed these first and foremost benefited Baptists, the larger picture includes all of American society.

The benevolent institutions —

hospitals, children's homes, and retirement centers — have impacted the general culture in a manner equal to any dimension of American life. The system of state Baptist papers involves the largest circulation and the most comprehensive coverage of any religious group in the United States.

Of non-Roman Catholic educational institutions, the Southern Baptist system of colleges, universities, and seminaries exceeds any other religious group and thus has influenced society in every way.

Jesus instructed his followers to "disciple" individuals and to teach others what he taught them. The disciples were to give cups of cold water, food, clothing, and comfort to those who were sick, hungry, in prison or lonely, and isolated.

Millions of Southern Baptists have done precisely that and the United States of America will never again be the same because of their efforts.

Puckett is editor, North Carolina BIBLICAL RECORDER.

The Spirit of Southern Baptists 1845-1995

Water aerobics help "miracles" happen

When water moves, miracles happen," is the motto of the Mississippi College (MC) water aerobics program.

Pamela L. Smith, water aerobics instructor at the college's heated indoor pool since 1986, can share success stories, but one week stands out in particular.

Several participants came to Smith sharing their individual success stories, each unaware that fellow exercisers had done the same.

Smith was intrigued by the unsolicited testimonies of those who had participated in her water aerobics program.

"It was amazing," exclaimed Smith, "because I knew all of these things had happened because these people had been coming on a regular basis for three months to a year, yet their success stories were all told during a one week period."

The same week that Smith had been bombarded with "testimonies," her Sunday School lesson at First Church, Clinton, brought up the pool of Bethesda in John 5:2-4. The Scripture relates to the "moving of the waters."

As the lesson unfolded that Sunday morning, Smith thought of the "moving water and the miracles hoped for" and related it to what she had been hearing all week from those she was instructing.

She left the church building mulling over and over in her mind, "When water moves, miracles happen." Months passed and she found the slogan recurring in her mind.

Then it happened. At the close of one of her classes a woman related how she had undergone several surgeries and

anticipated a long and arduous recovery. She enrolled in water aerobics, however, and her doctor credited her speedy recovery to her participation.

"You know, Pamela, when water moves miracles really do happen," she said. The instructor was awed that someone else shared her same feelings.

The next day she hung the motto, "When water moves, miracles happen" at the pool. It has been there ever since.

Smith said, "Our miracles are sometimes small and unnoticed. Some are physical, others are emotional or mental, and still others are spiritual. They are all miracles and because of our belief in the Lord we proclaim them to be. Another person may just say... they happened because of the exercise.... We simply call it miracles and thank the Lord."

The licensed and certified water instructor said, "In the benefits I list for my students, I always give the scientific ones, but I always share my opinion, which is there's an unknown factor in the water.

"How can you be in pain, submerge to the neck in deep water, and then the pain immediately disappear?"

"Science says it's buoyancy, hydrostatic pressures, resistance. I like to believe it's a gift from the Lord," Smith said.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

This concept of one sexual partner for life is pretty ridiculous. Why should I wait?

A man and woman in a sexual relationship enter into a very intimate world that involves every aspect of themselves. The woman gives her total person. For the man, it becomes a focal point upon which he may compare events for the rest of his life. Intimacy is not meant to be shared with a lot of people. Intimacy is opening one's self for the express purposes of gaining security and achieving a sense of belonging. When this intimacy is shared with more than one person, the feelings of warmth, openness, and security are weakened. Our entertainment media and our society have sold us a bill of goods that says sex is everything and that we should get all we can, but there is much more to a relationship than sexuality. If you don't believe it, be sure to read the letter that follows. The power of a strong relationship is reflective of the fact that God wants us to be intimate only with him and not mix that up with the gods of temporal pleasure.

I am devastated after catching my husband in an affair. I don't think I will ever love or trust him the same as before. What is our prognosis?

I have witnessed couples survive adultery, and this is how they did it. It helps to follow these steps in order and enlist the aid of a Christian counselor trained in conflict resolution skills:

— The adulterer must show true repentance for the adultery, not just for getting caught.

— The adulterer must allow the spouse to grieve. This grief may take the form of anger, rage, tears, checking up on the adulterer, etc.

— The spouse must look at his/her contribution to the adultery. The spouse didn't force his/her partner into adultery, but was the spouse as supportive and attentive to the marriage as possible? Note that the adulterer cannot demand this step; the spouse must move toward this at a comfortable pace.

— The couple should pray individually for each other and for the marriage. They should also pray together, if they can.

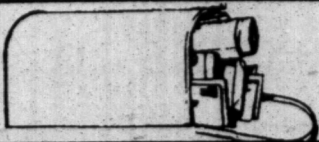
— The couple must surround themselves with strong Christian couples who will encourage them to do what is right.

Realize that these steps are simplistic and will take time to complete, but the relationship can be healed and forgiveness granted. You may even discover that the relationship has moved to a place it has never been before.

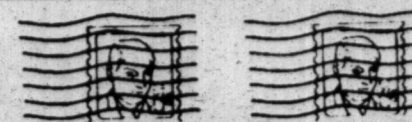
Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Water aerobics participants at MC.



Letters to the editor



Silent no more

Editor:

I am writing this basically because I have been a silent seminary student for over two and a half years. I came to Southern Seminary in the fall of 1992 immediately following graduation from Mississippi College. I chose Southern because of its diversity, warmth, and academic excellence (not to mention the fact that I felt God leading me to Southern). Over this period of time I have witnessed many things here at the seminary that have caused me to question our denomination. In my second year as a student, I was enrolled in Molly Marshall's systematic theology class. I was able to see growth from her challenging lectures and prayerful commitment to educate theological students. I began to analyze what the seminary trustees and administration were doing with their authority and power after Marshall was forced to resign. There was hurt and pain

intertwined in my emotions at that time. Since then I have tried to back up and look at all sides of these types of issues. I have studied the past of our seminary and denomination and seen that struggle and conflict is nothing new. In comparison to what is currently happening at Southern, I have found some incredible evidence. In 1898 one of the trustees, J.A. Chambliss, feared that the seminary was producing theological music boxes, "All shaped and pitched alike to give forth an invariable number of invariable tunes." And just last semester I was talking with one of the trustees and he told me that he saw his role as trustee as that of a farmer setting the fence for cattle to graze. He said that the faculty and students were cattle and that they could do whatever they wanted, but they could not cross the fence. It seems to me that a view from the present is for students to become like music boxes, all looking and sounding the same. I believe that

the spirit of Christ was to have diverse people around him to minister in their own special way. With the current forced resignation of Diana Garland, I feel the need to speak out. Diversity in a theological institution is very important and should be a criterion. We need to sing our own song for Christ.

Robert H. Mullins
Brandon

Do not understand

Editor:

I do not understand where [Al] Mohler of Southern Seminary got the idea that Calvin's interpretation of the doctrine of predestination is a part of our Baptist roots. Baptists in America have their roots in British Baptist groups. There were two strands of British Baptists, the General Baptists, whose first church in England was started in 1611, and the Particular Baptists, whose first church was started in 1616, but it was not until between 1633 and 1638 that they completely rejected infant baptism and sprinkling and organized the first Particular Baptist church in London.

The General Baptists from the beginning believed that God called all men to salvation, but they set up a very dominant organization over their churches, which was changed somewhat at a later date. The Particular Baptists rejected the idea of a church hierarchy. G.A. Catherall, a British Baptist who has done extensive research states in **Baptist War and Peace**, a study of British Baptist involve-

ment in Jamaica, 1783-1865, that the theology that God had ordained individual men either to redemption or damnation before the fall of Adam was introduced to the Particular Baptists by John Skepp, minister of Currier's Hall church since 1770. However, within a few years this attitude was changed, due to Andrew Fuller's **The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptance** and other works, along with sermons and writings of other men, including William Carey.

Also, I would like to comment that those who advocate demolishing the Historical Commission and dispersing its material throughout the six seminaries have obviously never done research. It would be impossible for a researcher to have the time and the money to travel to all six seminaries in order to have access to all the needed information. All of that material should be kept in one place.

Antonina Canzoneri
Jackson

Call him Barnabas

Editor:

I wish to thank Leon Emery for the personal telephone calls he has made to me over these years. I understand that such calls are made to every pastor in our convention at least once a year.

It is very easy for a pastor at times to feel that the Convention Board has forgotten him and that he has become a number among many numbers. Leon Emery's telephone call comes when one needs it the most, saying that the pastor has not been forgotten. He always offers support and prayer for the pastor's ministry and his family.

Our convention does many great and wonderful things, but having Leon Emery calling all the pastors is one of the best things it can do.

God bless Leon Emery for his sweet spirit and his evident care for the pastors and churches of our state.

Don Nerren, pastor
Robinhood Church
Brandon

Thanks for Lottie gifts

Editor:

We have just completed a projected estimate of the receipts for the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Although the books will not be closed until May 31 it appears we will receive well over \$85 million. We are most grateful to Southern Baptists for their support. The 3%

increase over last year's totals will enable us to continue to make significant advances in reaching our world for Christ.

I want to thank the Southern Baptists of Mississippi for their generous giving which reflects a high priority commitment to missions. I also want to encourage you to begin anticipating the 1995 offering in which we hope to receive \$100 million.

We are very thankful for the outstanding efforts of the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission in promoting the offering. Their partnership with us has generated this overwhelming response in missions support, coming within a breath of reaching the goal of \$86 million.

I would also like to encourage you to give generous support to the current home missions-emphasis so that the \$50 million Annie Armstrong Offering will be met this year. Through that offering, advances can be made in the continuing efforts to evangelize our own country.

Jerry Rankin, president
Foreign Mission Board, SBC

Looking for members

Editor:

Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County, is planning to celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 25. We are searching for any information about the beginning or early ministry of the church. Any names, pictures, or events will be very helpful. Mail to Rt. 1, Box 79, Tillatoba, MS 38961.

Elaine Champion
Tillatoba

Thanks for Record

Editor:

Please allow me to express my sincere appreciation for the excellent work of our **Baptist Record**. The information related to our state convention as well as the SBC has been reported in a reliable manner.

Thank you for your response to the letter written from Pheba (March 9, 1995). Being a pastor is a very demanding responsibility. The needs which were expressed in this letter were very real and can be dealt with by a godly pastor.

May our Lord be a very present strength and guide as you serve him by serving Mississippi Baptists.

Joseph B. Knight, pastor
Parkway Church
Kosciusko

First, Itta Bena, marks 100 years as congregation

First Church, Itta Bena, is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout 1995.

On April 2, Joe Nanney and Kenny Adams will be the guests in worship services. On July 9, Doyle and Andy Cummings will conduct services. Otis Seals and Kenny White will conduct

services on Oct. 15.

All former members are invited to any or all of these special services. For more information, contact Kay Walker at the church, P.O. Box 186, Itta Bena, MS 38941. Telephone: (601) 254-7224.

Higdon Herrington is pastor.

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Just for the Record



The youth group (above) of Robinhood Church, Brandon, has more than doubled in the past year. The church recently purchased a new van for the youth ministry. Bob Ferren is youth director and Don Nerren is pastor.



College Hill Church, Calhoun County, recently held a dedication service for its new pastorium. Mike Ramage is pastor.

Mid-South Bivocational Reunion and Conference will be held at New Orleans Seminary, April 28-29. The keynote speaker will be John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention. Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries, will discuss Home Mission Board support and resources in two sessions. For more information, call Joan Bennett. (800) 662-8701, ext. 3260.

First Church, Magnolia, will host a gospel-singing featuring The Florida Boys Quartet and Jubilation Quartet on April 1 at 7 p.m.

Bethlehem Church, Pinola, will observe Family and Friend Day on April 2. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m. Worship begins at 11. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall after the morning service. For more information, call the church at (601) 847-2588.

Three Poplarville area churches will cancel their evening worship services on Sunday, April 2, to encourage families to stay home and spend time together. **First Church, Poplarville, Juniper Grove Church, and Triumph Church**, will provide a list of suggested activities for the second annual "Family at Home Night." Bob Rogers, pastor of First, Poplarville, has organized the event. For more information, call him at (601) 795-4531.

Faith Church, Hickory Flat, will celebrate its 11th anniversary on April 2. The times are 10:30 a.m., covered dish in fellowship hall at noon, and afternoon singing with the McMillen Family. Others

on program are Tami and Glen Reeder, Ecru, guest speaker and special music. W.G. Dowdy is pastor.

Arizona Southern Baptist Convention is searching for a new executive director-treasurer. Recommendations should be sent to David Butler, chairman, 9030 Bears Path, Tucson, AZ 85749, or c/o Executive Board of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, 4520 N. Central Avenue, Suite 550, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

Gore Springs Church, Gore Springs, will have a dedication service for its enlarged and newly decorated facility on April 2 at 11 a.m. A noon meal will be served in fellowship hall. Everette Martin is pastor.

Mission: San Diego will be held at Mission Village Southern Baptist Church of San Diego,

Calif., this summer. Mission: San Diego is for MSC volunteers, youth groups, choir tours, college BSU groups, senior adults — anyone who wishes to participate. For information, call (619) 277-0430.

Clay Crosse will be in concert April 2 at 6 p.m. at **Main Street Church, Hattiesburg**. He will perform cuts from his debut album. Sponsored by the student ministry at Main Street, the concert is free and open to the public. A love offering will be taken. For more information, contact J.D. Simpson Jr. at (601) 544-5444.



Crosse

Alcorn Association recently held its third annual Volunteers in Missions Fair. Guests were Gerald and Glenda Davis, missionaries to the Philippines; Bill Hardy, Mississippi Partnership Missions, MCB; and Paul Harrell, disaster relief, MCB. The fair was coordinated by Nat Mayhall, missions development director; Ed Settle, Brotherhood director, and Barbara Smith, WMU director. Ed Gandy is director of missions.

The Hurricane Creek Horse Farm near Sandy Hook offers a special program for children, youths, adults, and senior adults. Call (601) 587-7114 for more information. Joy Thurman is program coordinator.

The Mississippi College Theater Department will perform Walton Jones' "1940s Radio Hour" in the Aven Fine Arts Theater on campus, March 30-April 2, and April 6, 7, and 9. Evening shows begin at 8; Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Admission is \$7 for general public, \$5 for MC students. Under the direction of Cindi Stokes, the one-act musical features more than 11 MC students performing live music, acting out what it took to stage a live radio musical in the 1940s. For ticket purchase or information, contact Stokes at (601) 925-3453.

Carey College excels in recent state competition

William Carey College art students have excelled in the 1995 Mississippi collegiate art competition. Ten works by William Carey College students were chosen from 69 slides submitted, resulting in the highest percentage of acceptance of any college competing.

The 10 works accepted for Carey students ranked second behind Delta State University which led in the total number of works accepted, having 15 of 119 entries selected.

A total of 60 artworks were selected from 957 entries by juror Melody Guichet, a member of the Louisiana State University art faculty. Works selected will be on exhibit at the Mississippi Museum of Art from March 3-April 22.

The eight William Carey College students exhibiting in the statewide competition are:

Greg Moran of Gulfport, "Untitled X," "Untitled XI," mixed-media drawings;

Boris Zakic of Zrenjanin, Yugoslavia, "The Man with the

Red Hat," "Dilemma Merkur," paintings;

Laura Cornell of Gulfport, "Pinchpot," ceramic;

Don Smith of Pascagoula, "Self Portrait,"

Gina Miller of Abilene, Texas, "Untitled," painting;

Carol Kent of Bay St. Louis, "Misty Morning," photograph;

Terri Ebel, "Mim's Apple Pie," painting; and

Geinene Haynes of Nashville, "Corinthian Vase," ceramic.

"Having one-sixth of the total art works accepted from the entire state of Mississippi is a great achievement for our students and faculty," stated Carey College's president, Jim Edwards.

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Staff Changes

Thursday, March 30, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Jerry W. Smith has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church, Durant, to enter into a full-time vocational evangelistic ministry of preaching, teaching, and singing. Smith can be contacted at Route 4, Box 71, Water Valley, MS 38965. **Smith** Telephone (601) 983-3623.



Ingram Church, Prentiss Association, recently call **Clayton Littlejohn** as pastor. A native of Saltillo, he received his education at Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served New Salem Church, Tishomingo Association.

State Boulevard Church, Meridian, has called **Philip Smith** as pastor. A native of Decatur, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Morningstar Church, Shreveport, La.



Topeka Church, Jayess, has called **Dale Authement** as pastor.

Roy McHenry has accepted the call as pastor of First Church,

Fulton, effective Feb. 20. His address is P.O. Box 400, Fulton, MS 38843.

Puckett Church, Rankin County, has called **Dale Townsend** as youth and children's minister, effective March 22. His previous place of service was Walker Hill Church, Rankin County.

Jerry Sullivan has been called as pastor of First Church, Raleigh. A native of Magee, he is a graduate of Mississippi College. He goes to Raleigh from Pine Grove Church, Simpson County.



Bill Bustin has recently been called to Tate Church, Corinth, as associate pastor/minister to students. Bustin formerly served at First Church, Kilgore, Texas. A native of Haleyville, Ala., he is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary.

Fred Fowler has resigned as pastor of First Church, Polkville, where he served for 6 years. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and has served churches in Mississippi including Clarke Venable, Decatur, and Southside, Jackson. Fowler can be contacted at Rt. 4, Box 10, Morton, MS 39117. Telephone (601) 537-3390.

Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, has called **Sammy J. McDonald III** as minister of education and outreach, effective March 16. A native of Simpson County, he is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Evangel Christian University.

Curtis Guess has resigned the Pine Grove Church in Neshoba Association and accepted Weir Church, Choctaw Association. Guess was pastor at Pine Grove for 12 years.

Pearson Church, Pearl, has called **Mark David Jones** as minister of youth, education, and activities, effective Feb. 12. His previous place of service was First Church, Clinton. Jones received his education at Mississippi College.

Center Grove, Meridian: April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Hugh Martin, Philadelphia, evangelist; Edd Holloman, pastor.

Everett, Mendenhall: April 2-7; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 nightly; James Hoven, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Archie Kemp, Magee, music; William A. McWilliams, pastor.

Galilee, Gloster: April 9-12; Robert "Bob" Anderson, evangelist; Charles Carruth, music; a pre-revival rally will be held on April 7 at 7 p.m. with The Jubilation Quartet in concert; Sammy Smith, pastor.

Alexander Memorial, Hollandale: April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon services, noon meals, and 7 p.m.; Henry Freeman, Runnelstown, evangelist; Curtis Hatcher, Greenville, music; Michael R. McLendon, pastor.

Parkway, Houston: April 2-5; services, 7 p.m.; James Messer Sr., Theodore, Ala., evangelist; John Kendall, Hamilton, music; David Kendall, pastor.

New Life, Leaf: April 5-9; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Tommy Brill, Ocean Springs, evangelist; Morris Courtney, McLain, music; Jerry Rawls, pastor.

Lena (Leake): April 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmie Hefner, evangelist; Edd Brashier, music; Tom Stevens, pastor.

Ingram, Baldwin: April 2-5; Jimmy Carr, Oliver Springs, Tenn., evangelist; Mike Puckett, Iuka, music; Clayton Littlejohn, pastor.

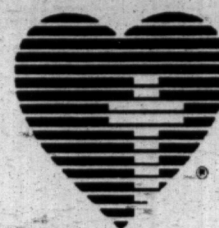
Briar Hill, Florence: March 31-April 2; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; dinner will be served in fellowship hall following morning service; David Grisham, Ackerman, evangelist; Gene Hubbard, music; Malcolm Pinion, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: April 23-26; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; evangelists are Tim Canterbury, Rock Hill, Sunday; Ted Dukes, County Line, Monday; Tom McCardle, Cato, Tuesday; and Barry Ward, Puckett, Wednesday; Marion Spence, pastor.

Southside, Jackson: April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Buddy McElroy, music; Donald Bozeman, pastor.

Glade, Laurel: April 2-5; Sunday services, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship at 9 and 11 a.m., and covered dish lunch following 11 a.m. service; evening services are 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch at 11:45 a.m. and service to follow; Cliff Estes, Shreveport, La.,

Revival Dates



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speaker; Jimmy Knight, Laurel, music; Mike Thompson, pastor.

First, Marion: April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m.; Bill Webb, Meridian, evangelist; Bill Strickland, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., music; Walter M. Blackman, pastor.

New Palestine, Picayune: April 2-5; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John T. Brock, Pine Bluff, Ark., evangelist; Kevin Hawkins, Picayune, music; Grover C. Glenn III, pastor.

Galilee Church, Mendenhall: April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Max Jones, evangelist; Ray Gates, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

Black Jack (Yazoo): April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Louis Smith, director, Church-Minister Relations, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Mike Bridges, pastor.

Daniel Memorial, Jackson: April 2-5; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Hal Kitchings, Middleburg, Fla., evangelist; Scott Adkins, Daniel Memorial Church, music; Byron Malone, pastor.

First, Lake: April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Kenneth Jones, Forest, evangelist; Jerry Peagler, Raleigh, music; Ken McLemore, pastor.

Green's Creek, Petal: April 2-5; 11 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. weeknights; Bruce Gill, Natalbany, La., evangelist; Daniel Lee, Hattiesburg, music; Mike Routon, pastor.

Trinity, Laurel: April 2-5; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Stanfill, director of missions, Lafayette

and Marshall Associations, evangelist; Richard Green, Laurel, music; A. Harrison Weger, pastor.

Avery (Green): April 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. followed by noon fellowship meal, 7 p.m. nightly; Marion Ball, Grove Hill, Ala., evangelist; Roger Blackwell, Runnelstown, music; Ken Ball, pastor.

Berea, McCool: April 16-19; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Mickey Armstrong, Vaiden, evangelist; Marty Mitchell, Berea Church, music; Tony Black, pastor.

Harrisville (Simpson): April 9-12; Sunday, 10 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Dexter Truesdale, Jackson, evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Dennis E. Allen, pastor.

First, Itta Bena: April 3-5; 7 p.m. daily; Monday service leaders, Gary Higginbotham, Jessie Bennett; Tuesday, Butch and Tommy Kelly; Wednesday, Steve Burton, Jessie Bennett; Higdon Herrington, pastor.

Raymond Road, Jackson: April 2-5; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Jones, MBC Christian Action Commission director; evangelist; Lewis Oswalt, MC music professor, music; Dan Watts, pastor.

Doty Chapel, Shannon: April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Hamilton, Verona, evangelist; Randy Wood, Verona, music; Shawn Kinsey, pastor.

Olivet, Gulfport: April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. with dinner on the grounds, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Jerry Watts, Gulfport, evangelist; Jerry and Anita Berry, Olivet, music; Richard Colwell, pastor.

First, Leakesville: April 2-5; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, evangelist; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

Lottie Moon Gifts

Mount Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, met and surpassed its goal of \$7,000 by \$60. Danny Moss is pastor.

Alexander Memorial Church, Hollandale, exceeded its goal of \$1,200. Michael R. McLendon is pastor.

Walnut Grove Church, Leake Association, has exceeded

its goal of \$3,100 with a final total of \$3,200. Frances Rogers is WMU director. John H. Pace is pastor.

New Providence Church, Derma, has received the largest offering in the history of the church. The goal was set at \$1,500 and \$2,500 was received. Janet Ramage is WMU director. Rex Ard is pastor.



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Names in the News



Elton Conrad Gill (left) was recently licensed to the ministry by Evansville Church, Coldwater. He is available for preaching opportunities and can be contacted at (601) 562-4006 or 562-8195. Presenting the certification is Bernette Fielder, pastor.



Unity Church, West, honored its pastor, **Jessie Scott Jr.** and his wife, **Sarah**, with a special day in observance of his 10th anniversary as pastor.

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — **Lester L. Cooper Jr.**, a certified parliamentarian and pastor of Valley Hill Church, Riverdale, Ga., was appointed chief parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June in Atlanta, according to SBC President Jim Henry. In January, Henry announced the appointment of a team of six parliamentarians for the Atlanta meeting but did not announce his choice of a chief. The other parliamentarians named earlier by Henry are: John Sullivan, Jacksonville, Fla., executive director of the Florida Convention; Sanford W. Peterson, Utica, N.Y., a corporate communications consultant firm owner; Jimmy E. Jackson, Huntsville, Ala., pastor of Whitesburg Church; David N. Matlock, Caddo Parish, La., juvenile judge; and Joe H. Reynolds, Houston, an attorney.

Marvin Alderman was ordained a deacon at Phillipston Church, Sidon, on Feb. 12. L.M. Jeffers is pastor.

Chris Crook will present his senior organ recital April 12 at 3 p.m. in the Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel on the Mississippi College campus. The recital is free. A student of Billy Trotter, Crook is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Thomas Crook III of Amory.

J. David Carter will lead the third annual Spring Prayer Conference at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. The conference will be



Three Mississippi College students won awards recently at the 1995 Southeastern Journalism Conference at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. They are **Daniel Ware** (left) of Magee, honorable mention, sports headline writing; **Aaron McMillan** (right) of Memphis, second place, best spot news photograph; and (not pictured) **Collin Johnson** of Jackson, second place, feature headline writing.

held April 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Carter, a graduate of Mississippi College, is a LIFE/Masterlife specialist with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Stan Fornea is pastor. For more information contact the church at (601) 925-6450.

WACO, Texas (BP) — **Russell H. Dilday** was named interim dean of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary. The appointment was effective March 17. Truett's former dean, Robert B. Sloan, was recently elected Baylor president, succeeding Herbert H. Reynolds, effective June 1. According to a Baylor news release, Reynolds said he, Sloan, Baylor Provost Donald D. Schmeltekopf, board chairman Gale L. Galloway, and vice chairman Randall H. Fields agreed on Dilday's appointment. Dilday is distinguished professor of homiletics at Truett and is special assistant to Reynolds.

President Jim Edwards recently announced that the

Sartain, 53, drowns in accident

Harry Jefferson Sartain Jr. drowned March 22 in a pond near Union Road east of Sardis. He was 53 years old.

The Water Valley native was pastor of Hebron Church near Sardis, and a former Marine.

Sartain is survived by his wife, the former Janie Veazey; daughter Kathy Beck of Memphis; son Harry III of Oxford; his mother, Maggie Sartain of Water Valley; two sisters, and one brother.

Funeral services were held March 24 at Hebron Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

William Carey College board of trustees approved the promotion of three faculty members: **Howard Keever**, professor of music; **Joanne Hugh**, assistant professor of nursing; and **Shannon Robert**, assistant professor of communications and theater.

Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, in the last two and one half years, has seen 13 of its youths and young adults answer God's call to ministry in various fields of service. They are **Jennifer Thornton**, **Scott Cockrell**, **Chris Layton**, **Sheena Layton**, **Steven Willis**, **Terra Herrington**, **Nettie Harrell**, **Christi Thompson**, **Robby Johnson**, **Chaston Bullock**, **Eric Still**, **Chris Rankin**, and **Brad Daley**. Of these, Cockrell and Johnson were licensed in 1994. Johnson was ordained in January when he was called as pastor of Goshen Church near Magee. Other youths under the leadership of Wina K. Still, minister of music/youth, worked last summer with the Home Mission Board project in Philadelphia, Penn., and will work there again this summer. An apartment ministry was started in August 1994. Sue Hosey, manager of Eastgate Manor Apartments and church member, felt the ministry was perfect to assist her work there. "The best security system an apartment complex can have is a group of people who love the Lord and love each other. When folks start to care about each other... positive things begin to happen," said Hosey.

Missionary News

Tom and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, are on the field (address P.O. Box 832, Bangkok 10501). He was born in Louisiana and grew up in Richton. She is the former Hazel Clark of Richton.

Michael and Karla Cannata, missionaries to Tanzania, have completed language study in Kenya and arrived on their field of service (address: P.O. Box 1060, Iringa, Tanzania). Son of retired missionaries, he was born in Zimbabwe, and at one time lived in Hollandale. The former Karla McPherson, daughter of missionaries, she was born in Las Cruces, N.M.

Jason and Susan Carlisle, missionaries to Uruguay, are on the field (address: Casilla 14052, 11700 Montevideo, Uruguay). He was born in Texas and grew up in Uruguay, where his parents served as missionaries. She is the former Susan Langston of Jackson.

Donald and Anne Dent, missionaries, are on the field (address: #7 Jalan Pelangi, Singapore 1026). He is associate to the area director for South Asia. Both are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Jackson and considers Holly Springs his hometown. She is the former Anne Jones of Brookhaven.

Wayne and Florence Frederick, missionaries to France, are on the field (address: 25, rue Joseph BOCAMY, 66100 Perpignan, France). He was born in Shannon.

The former Florence Blush, she was born in New Orleans and grew up in Edwards.

Joe and Teri Metts, missionaries to Dominican Republic, are on the field and receive mail at Lynx Air/Sd Dr, P.O. Box 5600, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33310. He was born in Deland, Fla., and considers Clinton his hometown. She is the former Teri Vickers of Jackson.

Laura Moak, missionary to Korea, is on the field (address: Yeo Eui Do, P.O. Box 165, Seoul 150-601, Korea). She is a native of McComb.

Tommy and Donna Beard will be on furlough from July 1995 to June 1996. The Beard family has served in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico, as church developers and mission promoters. They will be furloughing in Louisiana with their children and may be contacted at Route 1, Box 97, Transylvania, LA 71286 or call (318) 552-6352 or (504) 643-1507.

Dennis and Maragaret McCall, former missionaries to Burundi, have moved to Kenya for language study. Their address in Kenya (through Sept. 15) is: P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya. After Sept. 15, they will be on the field in Tanzania, working with unreached people groups and planting churches among the Maasai. Their address there will be: Baptist Mission of Tanzania, P.O. Box 9414, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

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Uniform

Paul's desire for the Jews



By Greg Potts
Romans 10

Once every three months, each of the three curriculum lines published by our Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has a lesson with an evangelistic thrust. The purpose of evangelism is to teach and preach the message that Jesus loves everyone and died for our sins. This Sunday, each lesson will be on the subject of evangelism.

In our text, the apostle Paul shares his desire for his people, the Jews, to be saved. He then proceeds to explain the process of salvation. First, Paul discusses...

A misunderstanding about salvation (vv. 4-7). In the preceding verses (1-3), Paul explains that he wants his people, the Jews, to accept Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and to be saved. He says the Jews have a zeal for God but it is misguided. In an effort to know God, they meticulously observe the letter of the law. In so doing, they believe God will be pleased with them and they will be saved.

Paul emphasizes one is not saved through works but through grace. Many people have this misunderstanding about salvation. They believe that if they help other people and live an honest and moral life, then God will be pleased with them. Many people mistakenly believe living by the Golden Rule will save them.

The Bible is clear — one is saved by grace through faith plus nothing! We need to remind our people of this common misunderstanding about salvation. But secondly, Paul discusses...

The method of salvation (vv. 8-13). If one is not saved through observing the law, then how? Paul answers that question clearly in our text. He says that if a person will confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead, he can be saved.

The word "Lord" means "owner or master." In the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, the word "Lord" is the regular translation of the divine name "Jehovah." So then, if a man called Jesus "Lord," he was giving him the supreme place in his life. But also one has to believe that Jesus has risen from the grave. There are three basic doctrines on which the house of Christianity rests. These are the virgin birth of Jesus, the substitutionary atonement of our sins by Jesus on the cross, and the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the grave. Each of these teachings are important but the resurrection is the most important. If Jesus had not risen from the grave, there would still be no hope for mankind.

In order for one to be saved, he must confess Jesus as Lord and believe that He has risen from the grave and he can be saved. Salvation is a miraculous thing. One cannot see someone get saved. One does not normally hear any voices or observe any change in the skies the moment one is saved. Yet, by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing that Jesus has risen from the grave, one can be saved.

Jesus referred to this phenomenon when he said, "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Thirdly, Paul talks about...

The mandate to provide salvation (vv. 14-18). Paul has made it clear how one is saved. Now he reminds us of our part in the process. Simply put, Paul says one can only be saved after he has heard the gospel, and they cannot hear the gospel unless a preacher is sent. It is the mandate of the church to make it possible for every person to have the opportunity to hear the gospel and respond.

One of the ways Southern Baptists have done this is through missions. Have you given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions? Have you considered getting involved in some mission efforts this summer? God's message of salvation is for all people. Many will accept Jesus if they hear the gospel. Will you do your part?

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book

Message of salvation



By Sylvia Fleming
Romans 10

Paul began his letter to the Romans to explain to all that God is no respecter of persons as related to salvation. As Paul spoke to his Jewish brothers, he expressed his heart's desire that Israel be saved. People who once had been his closest allies had become his most bitter enemies, as so often happens when a person comes to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a mistake to believe that Jesus brings peace between his children and the non-Christian. He ultimately will bring peace, but not in this world. "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division.... The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father..." (Luke 12:51, 53).

Paul knew his Jewish people possessed religious zeal for God, as he had once been filled with that same zeal. In fact, Paul was so zealous that prior to his salvation, he had gone about the empire entering houses and wreaking such havoc on believers that they were often imprisoned. It was at that time that believers began to scatter over the known world and preach the Word, telling people how they could be saved (Acts 8:3-4).

Paul certainly destroyed the popular saying: "Just so they are sincere in what they believe." The Jews were certainly sincere, but their beliefs were not based upon a correct knowledge of God. Rather than allowing the law to bring them to Jesus Christ, they began to worship the law, adding to it as they saw fit and as each interpreted the law, until they finally had 613 man-made ones.

Their beliefs were not based upon the only true way — the Lord Jesus Christ. In their ignorance, they were still trying to depend upon works. They were so busy establishing their own righteousness that they would not submit to the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The law provided for the Jew alone and was based solely upon works, and to that Christ had put an end. The righteousness through faith says, "Whosoever believeth," and "... by grace ye are saved through faith.... not of works lest any man should boast" (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9). The righteousness that the law pointed to is daily being fulfilled in Christians as they make their daily walk through the power of the Holy Spirit, and not through their own power in an attempt to keep the law.

Of what does that belief consist? If one will verbally agree that Jesus is the Son of God who shed his glory, came to earth to be born of a virgin, died on a cross, and rose the third day, and if one will believe it all in his heart, then he shall be saved.

The people who have that faith and who profess such an attachment to Jesus Christ that they willingly turn from their worldly ways (Luke 13:3) and not be ashamed of Jesus shall be saved. It did not, nor does it, matter if the person be Jew or Gentile. At the cross the partition that separated one from the other was torn down; thus, all — Jew or Gentile — must come by way of Jesus. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). He also said, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..." (John 10:9). "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:9).

Because Paul's message is so very important and is not dated material, it is absolutely mandatory that all Christians participate in missions — through witnessing, through prayerful and financial support, and believing that personal responsibility rests upon the shoulders of each born again Christian to see that all have an opportunity to hear the Word of God. One must remember that "... faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work

God's special message



By Michael Johnson
Romans 10

Our study of the gospel of Mark is interrupted this week by the special evangelistic lesson offered each quarter. Our aim this week is to help adults believe in Christ as their personal Savior or reaffirm their faith in Christ. Easter Sunday is just two weeks away — now is the time to make special outreach efforts in preparation for the Easter celebration.

What the Word says (vv. 5-8). The Jews long believed that the Ten Commandments (law) was given to them as a guide which, if followed, would lead them to God. Actually, the law had been given to help man to remain in fellowship with God since God had already initiated contact with the Jews. Through time, however, the law had been perverted by the religious leadership through the addition of hundreds of "oral requirements" which ultimately made the law burdensome and irrelevant to life.

This had become abundantly clear to Paul on the Damascus Road in his confrontation with Christ. There is nothing man can do on his own to warrant salvation. The law (Word of God) points us to salvation and provides guidance for living after conversion; but the law in itself does not save.

Say it and mean it (vv. 9-10). You might want to brainstorm with your class to discover how people today approach salvation (be kind to others, go to church regularly, help the disadvantaged, live a good life, etc.). The Bible is clear that there is only one way in which a person might gain salvation — through the confession that Jesus is Lord. This confession expresses the belief that God, through Jesus Christ, has given a free gift by which all people might be reconciled to God.

The confession is not only a statement of belief but it is a confession of one's need for a Savior. We cannot save ourselves. We must acknowledge our own failings and disobedience (sin). We must be willing to live changed lives which include new goals, new lifestyles, and new commitments. When we do this, we truly become children of God.

"Anyone" includes you (vv. 11-13). Our next unit of study, which begins later this month, will focus on Paul's missionary journeys. One of the amazing lessons to be realized from the book of Acts is how the gospel was able to break through barriers — racial, customary, cultural, economic, gender, social, language, political, geographical, etc. In other words, the gospel reached out and embraced ALL people.

This stood in stark contrast to a prevailing belief that one had to become a Jew (circumcised) before one could become a Christian. After all, it was reasoned: the Jews were God's chosen people; Christ was a Jew; and all of the first believers were Jews. This was a major battle that Paul fought with the Christians in his day. Fortunately, Paul was successful.

The gospel has no limitations or pre-existing conditions. The gospel accepts people for who they are and where they are. As we have already established, all that is needed is honest repentance and a true confession of their willingness to turn from the past and embrace the Lord Jesus Christ for the future. Truly, this is good news!

You have to hear it to believe (vv. 14-15)! This good news, however, has not been heard by most of the world's population. That may be difficult for us to believe as we look around at the televisions, telephones, and computers hooked up to the "information highway" and available to today's evangelists. Yet the United Bible Societies tell us that approximately 20% of the world's population still does not have access to Bibles in their native languages. Looking at statistics provided by church growth expert Peter Wagner, it appears the non-Christian world is growing three times faster than the Christian kingdom!

Word to you (v. 17). What a tremendous responsibility we have as Christians to share the good news of Jesus Christ. We must continue to support missionary efforts which take the gospel throughout the world. Our responsibility, however, does not stop there. We must become more intentional in sharing Christ with our families, co-workers, neighbors, and others we see on a regular basis. The world cannot believe unless it is told and provided appropriate guidance.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

capsules

HISPANIC BAPTIST LEADERS, OTHERS IN TEXAS PROTEST CATHOLIC/EVANGELICAL ACCORD: DALLAS (ABP) — Hispanic Baptist leaders in Texas are protesting a year-old document that affirms relations between Catholics and evangelicals, and have asked a Southern Baptist Convention leader who signed the statement to remove his support. The three top-ranking officers of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas, an organization of more than 800 churches with 100,000 members, released a statement March 10 disassociating themselves from the "Catholics and Evangelicals Together" document. Along with presidents of the 30 regional Hispanic fellowships of Texas, the leaders sent a letter to Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, asking him to rescind his endorsement of the high-profile accord. Lewis, along with Richard Land of the Christian Life Commission, were among the 40 original signers of the document, drafted one year ago to highlight areas of common concern for Catholics and conservative Protestants.

ZAMBIA IMMIGRATION OFFICER IGNORES RULING FAVORABLE TO BAPTIST MISSION: LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — Six more Southern Baptist missionary couples assigned to Zambia are looking at alternate ministry assignments after the country's chief immigration office ignored a judge's directive to extend Baptist missionaries' work permits. Four of the couples may become illegal immigrants at the end of March, when their work permits expire, unless the Baptist Convention of Zambia and the Baptist mission (organization of missionaries) resolve a two-year-old dispute over who must approve missionary work permit requests. That will be discussed again at a March 24 meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, between leaders of the mission and the convention. If the issue is not resolved then, both sides will examine future options. Meanwhile, another couple is in the United States hoping to return to the central African country after furlough. Unless the trend is reversed, the Southern Baptist mission force in the country, which numbered 45 in 1994, will shrink to six couples within a year. "We certainly need everyone's prayers for the March 24 meeting," missionary Bonita Wilson, acting administrator for the mission, said March 15. "We need a miracle to work this out."

CALIFORNIA BAPTISTS MINISTER TO STORM-BATTERED STATE: WATSONVILLE, Calif. (ABP) — Southern Baptists are providing help and hope to thousands of Californians affected by the state's latest natural disaster, floods spawned by recent winter storms. "A lot of people are very happy to see us," remarked Don Hargis, men's ministries director for the California Southern Baptist Convention. Hargis is coordinating Baptist aid to victims of the March storms which spawned the state's worst flooding in 100 years. Southern Baptist disaster relief stations were set up in two cities as the deadly storms battered California for several days beginning in early March. Mudslides swallowed houses in the southern California community of La Conchita and collapsed bridges in several locations. Fifteen volunteers from churches in Fresno, Sacramento, Orange County, and San Jose served some 2,500 hot meals at the Watsonville site the first day. Among those seeking shelter and food were hundreds of field hands suddenly left without work or homes when the lush Salinas Valley was inundated.

GOES HOST HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISTS, CALLED "OUT OF TOUCH": WASHINGTON (BP) — Vice President Al Gore and his wife Tipper held a reception at the vice presidential home March 3 for 150 homosexual activists. Most were officers or members of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the country's largest homosexual political organization. In addition, openly homosexual members of the Clinton administration attended, according to an Associated Press (AP) report. "We very deeply share your vision of a society that is fair and free of discrimination for gay and lesbian people, and we want you to know that," Tipper Gore told reception attendees, according to AP. Four days after the Gores' reception, House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., expressed opposition to school programs which present homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle, and to legislation which would grant homosexuals the right to sue based on employment discrimination. "The Clinton administration is looking for love in all the wrong places," said Michael Whitehead, the Christian Life Commission's general counsel, about the reception. "... This could be a snapshot of a one-term presidency, out of touch with the moral mood of America."

BEER COMMERCIALS DOMINATE TELEVISION: More alcohol commercials appear in televised sports events than advertisements for any other beverage, according to Pennsylvanians Aware (fall 1994 issue, reprinted from CSAP Prevention Pipeline May/June, 1994). Alcohol accounted for 77% of all beverage commercials. In addition, advertisements included images that counter former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's 1989 recommendations. Only three of the 685 broadcasts of alcohol commercials contained moderation messages, such as "Friends know when to say when." Ten alcohol-related public service announcements were aired. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of fatal accidents involving drinking drivers (with any level of blood alcohol) has declined, but the 21-34 age group continues to show the highest numbers (7,221). The percentage of fatal accidents involving drinking drivers has declined: 37.6% in 1983, 27.3% in 1993. The overall number of fatal accidents involving drinking drivers has also declined: 20,511 in 1983, 14,589 in 1993.

Mexico City Baptist youths embrace True Love Waits

MEXICO CITY (BP) — Along with Wal-Mart and Whataburger, True Love Waits has hit Mexico City.

Young people from Mexico City's Anastasis Baptist Church — energized by a study of the "Experiencing God" discipleship course — heard about the True Love Waits sexual abstinence program and decided to get involved.

The "Experiencing God" study made such a big impact on their lives they began asking: "What's next?" said Larry Gay, who leads the youth with his wife, Susan. The Gays, from Birmingham, Ala., are Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Mexico City.

That question led to the pilot project in Mexico of True Loves Waits, a program of the Baptist Sunday School Board. About 40 young people at Anastasis church — in an upper-class area of Mexico City — recently completed a Mexican version of the program, stressing the Christian plan for love, sex, and marriage. Many signed pledges to wait until marriage before becoming sexually active.

But True Love Waits is just one slice of what God is doing in the Anastasis church, according to the Gays. "I'm speechless," said Mrs. Gay. "It's been one of those things where you just know God

is working. It's nothing that we did. It's him."

So far, at least 120 people at Anastasis have taken "Experiencing God," also a Sunday School Board program. "Our church is truly having an experience with God right now," said Gay. "We didn't just take a course."

For example, since completing "Experiencing God," the church's young people have committed themselves to taking True Love Waits beyond their church to other

Mexican Baptist youths. ("Youths" range from age 16 to 30.)

They've pledged to design and publish Spanish-language materials for the 1,200 churches in the National Baptist Convention of Mexico. By July they hope to get at least 2,000 young people to sign commitment cards promising not to have sex outside marriage. They also will promote True Love Waits at the Mexican Baptist national youth congress, scheduled in July near Mexico City's pyramids.



CHALLENGE TO WAIT — Mexican Baptist young people — like these gathered outside a church in Mexico City — enjoy each other's company. They and their peers soon will be challenged to take part in the Mexican version of True Love Waits, the Baptist Sunday School Board's sexual abstinence program. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

"God was there to help us" when missionary injured, wife reports

JIBLA, Yemen (BP) — Two unknown Yemeni men recently stopped to help Southern Baptist representatives Bob and Bev Thomas when fragments from a rock thrown by neighborhood boys struck one of Bob's eyes.

The men's quick response indicates to the Thomases how valuable the Baptist Hospital, where they both work, is to area residents in Jibla, Yemen. They see it as an important source of help, Mrs. Thomas said.

Also, Yemeni workers at the hospital, upset by the incident, said they would talk with village authorities to prevent similar

episodes in the future.

Christian workers in Yemen have reported they are pleased with an increased responsiveness to the gospel there in recent years.

The Thomases were jogging near the hospital when five boys, ages 7 or 8, began throwing the rocks. A softball-sized rock struck the ground in front of them, throwing up fragments that shattered his eyeglasses, gashed his head, cut an eyelid — and narrowly missed causing serious injury.

"We don't feel the rock throwing had anything to do with the hospital or with us personally," said Mrs. Thomas, a Mississippian

who directs the hospital's Ancillary Services Department. Her husband, a Tennessean, directs the Nursing Department.

"Boys in several cities here seem to have adopted throwing rocks at foreigners as a new pastime," she added.

"God was there to help us," she said. "Even with the glass flying around his eye, Bob's vision wasn't affected. It could have been very serious."

Bibliocipher

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PSOW SH E URICWV, HXVROK TVSOC SH VEKSOK:
EOT PARHRWZWV SH TWIWSZWT XAWVWGJ SH
ORX PSHW.

MVRZWVGH XPWOXJ: ROW

This week's clue: We equals E.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Thessalonians Two: Eight.

Baptist Record

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